



## Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

TO: Environmental Review Record  
FROM: James McAllister, Certifying Officer, GOSR  
DATE: March 26, 2020  
RE: SEQRA Type II Determination – Lido Beach / Point Lookout Drainage Improvements Project

**Proposed Action:** The Lido Beach / Point Lookout Drainage Improvements Project (Project) will involve drainage improvements at approximately nineteen (19) drainage improvements at approximately fifteen (15) locations in the hamlet of Lido Beach, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York. The drainage improvements will be performed on Lido Boulevard, Lagoon Drive East, Harbor Drive, and Blackheath Road. In-line check valves will be installed at three (3) locations on Harbor Drive and two (2) locations on Lagoon Drive East; three (3) catch basins will be installed at one (1) location on Blackheath Road; and fourteen (14) catch basins will be installed at nine (9) locations on Lido Boulevard. Construction activities will include the following: trench and culvert excavation; removal of existing drainage structures; installation of in-line pipe check valves, catch basins, reticulate grates with vertical face opening curb boxes, and reinforced concrete pipe for connections to the existing drainage system; restoring concrete curb, cement concrete, existing roadway pavement, concrete, and asphalt disturbed in order to perform the drainage improvements; reconstructing traffic loops; relocating buried electrical service and existing light poles; resetting existing fencing; and applying topsoil and grass seed to disturbed soil.

In 2012, Superstorm Sandy overwhelmed Lido Beach's stormwater drainage system. Due to its tremendous size, Sandy drove a catastrophic storm surge into the New Jersey and New York coastlines. Floodwaters inundated homes, schools, municipal buildings, and businesses and made streets impassable and areas unusable. Superstorm Sandy's tidal surge was over ten feet in areas of Lido Beach. Evacuation and emergency response was severely hindered or impossible as a result of flooding. Recovery and resiliency of the Community was also severely impacted due to infrastructure limitations and functionality.

Lido Boulevard, a major thoroughfare and primary evacuation route for Point Lookout, Lido Beach, and the adjacent City of Long Beach, was observed to be covered by more than a foot of water. The Community believed the flooding was exacerbated by additional water forced through the Reynolds Channel storm drain outfalls and through the stormwater system and onto neighborhood streets.

The installation of check valves (tidal backflow prevention) will prohibit the rising tide from entering the upland piping system and more importantly permit the draining of the upland piping system into downstream surface waters during low tide events. The draining of the upland piping systems will increase upland storage capacity between storm events. This in turn will help to attenuate or lessen the impacts of certain storm events by providing a time delay for the piping system to fill up with surface collected storm water prior to discharge, thereby minimizing or eliminating potential flooding and increasing the resiliency of the drainage system.

The use of backflow prevention devices will effectively provide additional stormwater storage within the existing drainage pipe network and mitigate the negative effects of rising tides, without creating additional storage. The use of tidal check valves offers the greatest positive effects to flooding mitigation, aside from raising the topography of the land above flood elevation, which generally results in the greatest impacts to private property.

To reduce stormwater ponding occurrences along Lido Boulevard, selected aged and inefficient single-curb inlet opening drainage structures will be removed and more hydraulically efficient drainage structure inlets will be installed. Existing single curb inlet drainage structures will be replaced with two (2) standard reticulate grates and curb boxes. This will increase the surface inlet capacity and the ability of stormwater runoff to be collected and enter the drainage system. This action will decrease the gutter spread width of slow-moving stormwater runoff travelling against the curb line of the relatively flat Lido Boulevard roadway profile gradients by intercepting and collecting the water with a larger inlet area and minimizing water ponding into the adjacent travel lanes. Given the critical function of Lido Boulevard as a coastal evacuation route, the redundancy provided by the combination inlets (noted above) and their improved maintenance access are advantageous drainage system characteristics consistent with Lido Boulevard's critical function. Implementation of the Project would provide improved stormwater drainage for the residents living in the area and significantly reduce the risk of future flooding.

Lido Beach is an unincorporated hamlet located in the middle of the southern portion of the Town of Hempstead's Long Beach Barrier Island. Lido Beach is bounded by Reynolds Channel to the north, Point Lookout to the east, the Atlantic Ocean to the south, and the City of Long Beach to the west.

The NYRCR Planning Committee (Committee), with input from the public, developed goals for enhancing the resiliency of Community assets that were aligned with the Community's core values. A Community Vision Statement and NYRCR recommendations were shaped in a public engagement process that identified (6) locations in total that the Committee and Lido Beach/Point Lookout residents believed to be the most problematic, flood-prone areas in the Lido Beach/Point Lookout area. Subsequently, a Drainage Study that identified and evaluated the most problematic, flood prone areas in Lido Beach and Point Lookout was completed on February 9, 2018. The Drainage Study involved comprehensive engineering hydraulic modeling, analysis of the existing stormwater system, and the presentation of alternative proposed improvements for consideration. A Technical Design Report, which focused on improvements suggested in the Drainage Study and identified by Nassau County as priority locations, was then completed on July 15, 2019. The proposed Project, which was derived from the Drainage Study and Technical Design Report, is intended to reduce flooding around this critical geographic area.

**State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Classification:** The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), acting under the auspices of New York State Homes and Community Renewal's (HCR) Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), on behalf of the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), has determined that the proposed Project meets the requirements for Type II classification under SEQR regulations. Pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c)(2) and 617.5(c)(5), the proposed Project would result in replacement of structures on the same sites, as well as repaving of existing highways that does not involve the addition of new lanes. Therefore, pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(2) and 617.5(c)(5), the proposed Project is statutorily exempted from SEQR review.

This determination has been prepared in accordance with Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Should you have any questions pertaining to this Type II determination, you may contact me at (646) 256-9485 or [james.mcallister@stormrecovery.ny.gov](mailto:james.mcallister@stormrecovery.ny.gov).